berths, modernization of cargo handling equipments through fresh procurement as also upgradation/replacement of existing equipments, improvement in storage capacities, upgradation of internal circulation systems for smooth cargo movement within the port area, improved rail and road connectivity to hinterland, etc.

Losses due to Kanwar pilgrimage

†3244. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during religious Kanwar pilgrimage the Delhi-Meerut-Haridwar-Dehradun highways remains closed for motor vehicles;

(b) whether any assessment has been made to find out the losses suffered by both the States each year as a result of the closure of aforesaid highway;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have considered the proposal to construct an alternate route or whether concerned States have been consulted for this possibility; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken for keeping the said highway open for traffic during Kanwar Pilgrimage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No alternate route is under consideration of this Ministry.

(e) During religious Kanwar pilgrimage the traffic of National Highway is diverted to the State Roads.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.